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FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1895.

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SAPORTA AND WILLIAMSON AND THEIR WORK IN PALEOBOTANY.

THE science of fossil plants has lost within a period of less than six months two of its oldest and most eminent cultivators, the Marquis Gaston de Saporta and Professor William C. Williamson, the former of whom died on the 26th of January, at the age of

seventy-two years, and the latter on the 23d of June, at the age of seventy-eight years. The immense loss which science has sustained in the death of these two men is only partially lessened by the fact that they were not cut off, as are so many men of promise, in the prime of life, but were spared to continue to a ripe age their valuable labors. The monument that each has erected for himself is greater and more enduring than any that others can ever erect for them.

Having been in direct communication with both of them for a full decade and having been also, to a limited extent, personally acquainted with them, I have felt it a duty to science, and especially to that branch of science which I have cultivated most, to speak a word from this side of the Atlantic in recognition of their services.

THE MARQUIS SAPORTA.

IN a paper in which I contributed in 1885 to the Fifth Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey (p. 383), and in which I gave brief sketches of the principal workers in paleobotany, I attempted to review Saporta's work, as then known to me, from an acquaintance with his scientific contributions. This sketch was exceedingly defective and did poor justice to his merits, but was the best I was able to make at that date. Aside from the grave omissions there made, it must be said that his labors were